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For the Second Time This Year

SAIGON WORKERS CALL A GENERAL STRIKE

workers of 124 TU organizations in strike on June 25, 1970 for an indefinite period, Western sources said. They were supported by 40,000 non-Trade Unionist hands, Buddhists of An Quang Sect, Saigonese students and pupils and war invalids. This was the second time since early 1970 the Saigonese workers walked out.

At the origin of their action was the Month of the Saigonese workers walked out.

At the origin of their action was the May At the origin of their action was the May 28, 1979 strike of dockers of Thu Due depot in protest against American bosses' mujustifiable sacking of 283 workers there and cutting down of the part of the same of the same of Saigon port stagged a 24-bour sympathetic stoppage. On June 15, 50,000 workers again downed tools as a warning to the American bosses and their henchmen. But they remained stubborn and did not me, which gave rise to the current general strike.

It is to be recalled that the first general at is to be recalled that the first general strike, involving 70,000 workmen from 18 Saigonese TU organizations erupted on January 7, 1970 in Saigon in support for the bus drivers' protest action.

the bus difvers' protest action.

A to the declere of Thu Duc US depot, in a top 1 1970 they already struck for annual holiday benefits and bomus worth a month salary as stipulated in their contracts (February 19, 1970). After their claim had been satissied, they again stopped domineering behaviour (February and against and against their US bosses domineering behaviour (February and against and against and part in the February 19 strike (March 8, 1970).

Labour unrest in South Viet Nam cities has been gaining momentum during the recent months; bus drivers forced the puppet authorities to award the contract for the exploitation of their company of the highest bidder and the contract (February Compelled the managers of the Viet Nam Sugar Conpany to abolish the Viet Nam Sugar Conpany to abolish the Viet Nam Sugar Conpany to abolish the Viet Nam Sugar Conpany (23); workers of the Pacific firm compelled its owners to make public apologies for their arrogance (February 23); workers of Esso oil firm Labour unrest in South Viet Nam cities

obtained a basic wage-lift of from 6 to 11 per cent (March 1); and those of the RMK - BRJ firm a pay rise and a change in the time-table (March 27).

on the time-table (March 27). One of the direct causes of this effervescence was the workers' worsening living conditions due to the skyrocketing living cost. The Saigonese newspaper Chinh Luan (Just Opinion), in its issues of March 1, 13 and 16, pointener goods were imported or given as aid. The June 15, 1970 issue of memory of the condition o

last year.

By the end of 1969, the "austerity "
ax of the puppet administration (enforced on October 25, 1969) made things more difficult for the workers and other urban poor people. This year, the puppet authorities admitted that the deficient order to the total the same that the theory of the total that the same that the deficient order to full the same that the deficient order to full Saigon "Parliament" a law which would give Thieu full powers to tackle with economic problems for the next five months. For the masses in South Viet Nam things are going from bad to worse with every passing day.

In addition to the above warning.

In addition to the above-mentioned economic causes, the political atmosphere also stirs up the militancy of the workers. There have appeared in the urban people's movement many slogans against US aggression.— the source of every calamity which befalls them—such as "Yankee, go home!", "Governor General Bunker, go home!", "Vitamairation means war prolongation."

The backing given the bus drivers' general strike by Baddhists, students and invalids was an unmistakable token of solidarity between all strata of South Vietnamese cities and towns in a joint effort for legitimate economic and political claims and the fundamental rights of the whole nation.

U.S. Economy

From Inflation to Recession

N March last, members of the US Congress Joint Economic Committee already warned that a difficult year lay ahead of

US economy; the Govern-ment should work out drastic programmes in case the anti-inflation policy continued to entail unemployment and recession.

US President R. Nixon,

in his June 17 televised speech. admitted the momentum of four years of inflation was stronger than had been anticipated " and that "the effect on unemployment is greater than we foresaw."

Galloping inflation and recession are US present headaches.

INFLATION, "U.S. GREATEST SCOURGE"

SINCE 1965, prices in the US have been spiralling. Consumer prices rose at an average rate of 1.3 per cent annually from 1960 to 1965, then 3.5% in 1966, 4% in 1967, close to 5% in 1968, and over 6% in 1969. In the first months of 1970, the rate of increase has not slowed down, but continued its climb. In April, living costs shot up again to the annual rate of 7.2% (Reuter, May 20, 1970). The trend of wholesale prices remained roughly the same, though more irregular. It should be recalled that a simple increase of 1% in living costs already means a loss of about 5-6 billion dollar for American consumers.

Price indices show that in the last 2 years, cigarettes have increased by 11%, eggs 24%, recreation 18%, and medical care 28%. Compared with 1939, the purchasing power of the dollar on the home market fell to 46.9 cents in 1960, then 44.1 cents in 1965 and 37.9 cents in June 1969. If the present inflation trend is maintained, the buying power of the dollar will be worth no more than 36 cents in 1970. On the whole, the dollar is depreciated at an annual rate of 7% (Reuter, June 18, 1070).

(Continued page 8)

Repression -U.S. Fundamental Policy in South Viet Nam

(See article on page 2)

Saigon students' meeting in protest Saigon students' meeting in protest against US-puppets' policy of repression and Saigon—Phnom Penh collusion in the massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.



Repression — a Fundamental Policy

SOUTH Viet Nam must have a strong government backed up by police and security forces ough to eliminate the fators of agitation," declared John Foster Dulles, US State Secretary, before the Senate on November

Speaking on June 1st, 1956 at a meeting of the American Friends of Viet Nam Association, W.S. Robert-son, Under-Secretary of State for the Far East, was even more explicit.
"Our efforts," he said, "are directed first of all toward helping to sustain

the internal security forces of a regu-lar army of about 50,000 men, a mo har army of about 30,000 men, a mo-bile civil guard of some 45,000 men and local defence which are being formed to give protection against subversion at the village level."

Right from the outset, Washington knew that all the political guises were of no great use. What they needed in the first place was a ma-

Let us have a look into the mech and workings of

2. Para-Military and Political

The !! civic action " teams (cong dan vu) organized under Ngo Dinh Diem have been replaced

since his death by the "rural devel-

The latter, like their predecessor, are armed to the teeth. They are sent to the villages where they go down to each hamlet. They are

given carte blanche to arrest people and make them speak through tor-ture. The task of these teams is to

"sweep" the villages of "subversive elements." In a word, together with the armed forces, the rural develop-

ment teams assume the "pacifi-cation" job. For appearance's sake, they are entrusted some social

minds" of the people for which they show, in fact, little zeal.

The "Republican youth" and Catholic youth are chiefly entrusted with gathering intelligence.

They keep watch over the least movement of the people and consti-tute a real spiderweb of agents

planted in villages, hamlets, town quarters, streets and even each home. Through intimidation they

force the observance of administra

tive measures. Without being the

theless help to make the people feel all the weight of the repressive machine of the Saigon rule.

The Can Lao Nhan Vi Party

of Labour and Personalism) super-vised all these armed and para-mili

tary organizations. Its members who

were real SS men in service of Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo

Dinh Nhu, acted as nucleus in all important organs of the Diemist

This police network which has not

This police network which has not ceased to grow, has practically spread to the whole of South Vict Nam. Together with the regular army, it enables the Saigon administration to control the people from the towns down to the smallest

3. A Fescist Legislation and

The Saigon police has always a free hand in arresting and torturing people. However, to put a figleaf of legality on its brutalities, the re-

gime has promulgated a legislation to give them legal grounds.

Ordinance No 6 dated January

1st, 1956 authorized the police to put in jail or into concentration camps for an indefinite period and

by simple administrative measures any individual judged dangerous to national security and public order.

they are entrusted some social actions to "win the hearts and

A MASSIVE MACHINE OF REPRESSION

I. The Regular Army and the Forces of Police

Under the supervision of the American missions MAAG and MSUAG, the Saigon government began to build up sizeable regular army and police force.

The regular army constitutes the cornerstone of the regime. It has swelled up rapidly since February 10, 1965 when Pentagon took charge of its organization, equipment and

The Time of Viet Nam published in Saigon wrote on March 1st, 1958 : "Until 1955, the Vietnamese troops, auxiliary to the French army, were no larger than battalions. By 1956, the total strength of 150,000 men was made of a combat element o infantry divisions, paratroopers and marines, At the present time, the recent organization of two army corps has turned the Army of the Repub-lic of Viet Nam into a modern ar-my, capable of responding to the

This modern warfare was launched This modern warfare was launched first against the people of South Vict Nam. For 'this regular army was assigned by the Saigon govern-ment and its US masters the task of quelling the popular movements, conducting "mopping-up" opera-tions in the former bases of resistance of the Vietnamese people, paving the way for the repression of the former resistance members and finally un dertaking the "march to the North" when all opposition had been wiped out in South Viet Nam.

Several US generals were posted Several US generals were posted to this Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Saigon army. All the Saigon units from battalion level and later from company level upward have their group of Yankee "advis-

The "civil guard" (bao an) set up on April 10, 1955, constitutes the regular armed forces of the provinces and districts.

The police and security forces (canh sat, an ninh) play the role of spearhead in the suppression of the popular movements, first of all the town population.

The militia (dan ve) are, in principle, a para-military force, but or ganized, equipped and paid by the Saigon administration. They operate at the village level. On orders from Ngo Dinh Diem, they were integrated into the "civil guard" on November

Civil guard, police and security forces and militia, all are charged with watching over the local population. They co-ordinate their actions with the regular army whenever the

The highest peak of this legislation was incontestably the law 10/59 promulgated on May 6, 10/59. Article 1 of this law provides for punishment of anyone who commits or attempts (italics are ours — Ed.) to commit one of the offences listed in the law with a view either to sabotage or infringement on State

> Special military tribunals were set up to enforce this law. Depri-vation of preliminary investigation, trial within three days after arrest, the defendants being advised only twenty-four hours before the hearing, in camera hearings and non-pub ing, meamera hearings and non-pun-licity of the verdict, sentences imme-diately executable and non-appeal-ability, such are the overriding powers of these tribunals. Punish-ments are simplified to the extreme: there are only death penalty and hard labour for life. No extenuating circumstance is valid for the principals in the first and second degrees, and instigators.

For intimidatory purposes, the special military tribunals brought along guillotines everywhere they

However, with the arrival of the US expeditionary corps, it became more and more difficult to camouflage neo-colonialism and consequent ly repression became more and more ferocious. This fascist legislation no longer was applicable.

An ordinance decreed on June An ordinance decreed on June 24, 1965 proclaimed the state of war throughout South Viet Nam territory. A law, known as law 10/68 of November 5, 1968, was enacted to complete the said ordinance. It simply banned all strikes, demonstrations and gather-ings, the keeping and distribution ings, the keeping and distribution of any printed matters, documents and leaflets likely to harm public order. It authorized house search by day and by night and the imposition of house arrest on any individual judged dangerous to national security, the control and restriction on the ement of the population, control the distribution of food, etc. Field military tribunals are empow ered to try all infringements of public order and national security. Emergency proceedings are routine

For a population of about 17 than a thousand jails and concen-tration camps. 400,000 people detained there have been subjected to a regime of which even documents and the press of the US have from time denounced

At the January 3, 1958 session of the Saigon "National Assembly," deputy Tran Ngoc Ban gave the

"1) 112 million piastres (South Viet Nam currency) for the prisons, 6 million for the Hue University.

"2) 150 detainees kept in rooms totalling 54 square metres, or every square metre for three. The detainees cannot even stretch them-selves. They eat, sleep and relieve themselves in the same room.

"3) Many detainees stay 18 months in prison without trial. For Quang Ngai province which I represent, the small provincial penitentiary

The US Commission Inquiry into Religious and Political Freedom in Viet Nam in a report has related the following after a visit to the women's prison of Thu Duc (Saigon), a visit evidently arranged before-

"The cells and large prison rooms were overcrowded. This was especially hard on nursing mothers and those with small children. Fifty women, some with babies, lived in a crude building 40° by 30°. Sanitation was primitive and inadequate. There was primitive and inadequate. Inere was evidence that some prisoners had not received needed medical atten-tion. Team members were especially concerned about the large number of prisoners who had not been sentenced after many months of detentin, seness and inaccuracy of pris oner classification, the inhu oner classification, the inhumanity of some sentences and the extreme youthfulness of many of the inmates. Governor Minh told the Team that there were fifty children from birth to 18 years of age in prison and forty young offenders from 13 to

Tortures are daily practice in the prisons and interrogation centres. There, the torturers combine, with a sadistic pleasure, the medieval methods with the refinements of the methods with the refinements of the latest findings of American psycho-analysis. *UPI* on April 29, 1970 reported the declarations made at a press conference by Saigon students on the tortures inflicted on them:

"Que Huong, a teacher, one of the four girls among 21 persons brought to trial before the military court, said she and the other three girls were tortured with electric shocks in their ears. Two had lighted cigarettes placed against their sex organs. Mrs Huong said her husband was forced to watch her tortured and then she was forced to watch as her

"Another witness, Luu Hoang Thao, who was carried into the court room by four other students, said he had been beaten on the knees for seven days and could hardly walk. Thao said he had electric shocks

METHODS OF REPRESSION

I. From 1954 to 1960

In its early days the US-Diemist regime did its best to stamp out all forces of opposition, and resorted to terror to bring the population to their knees.

Peaceful demonstrations to acclaim the Geneva Agreements and demand their strict application were drowned

The population was classed into three categories: "illegal," "semi-legal," and "legal," The first were former militants of the resistance against the French c (1945-54) and those who colonialists

try in conformity with the Geneva Agreements. "Semi-legal" were blood relations of the former. Every-thing was permissible against these two categories of citizens, from arbitrary arrests to physical liquidation. A campaign was launched to compel women whose husbands had regrouped in the North to ask for a Likewise, parents children had regrouped in the North must repudiate them. After wiping out the armed forces of the Binh Xuyen and the Cao Dai and Hoa Hao religious sects, the Saigon adminis-tration launched a noisy campaign

(Continued page 7)

VIET NAM COLIDIES



"Pupils" going to "school"

HE Hoa Binh Youth Socialist Labour School is the first of its kind

is the first of its kind in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. There 700 youths, male and female, from 8 ethnic groups in the Hoa Binh mountains are taught primary and secondary education while rundary education of 50 bectares.

dary education while run-ning a farm of 456 hectares equipped with a rice-mill, a distillery and a generator. They work full time: four hours of labour, four hours of class and three hours of individual study; their

curriculum includes all the

subjects of general education coupled with an elementary

course of agricultural tech-nique and a political course

at training young labourers keen on science and tech-

nique, ideologically well pre-pared and able managers, who will return to their

native places to give push to socialist revolution among

Founded twelve years ago

on the initiative of some heads of the local youth

organizations without the assistance of any experienced

school-master, school had to less tests to settle down

and establish its position.

Now it has brought to fruition its original method

which combines study with

labour, so far the most

developed country and per-

class is also a production

production of material wealth, participation in na-tional defence and politico-

ideological schooling. The results have been enlighten-

ing. Much talked about for

years, this polyvalent school

has drawn a great number of native and foreign visi

tors from such countries as the Soviet Union, China,

France, the United

Korea, Germany, Cuba,

the country folks.

grass-root cadres of

the capital, one crosses the Black River at the Jade Landing Stage to take the inter-provincial Road No 24, a metalled one dotted with reinforced concrete bridges which was built by one of first batches of students and played a decisive role in the history of the school. It winds through a landscape of verdant hills grown with cassava, abrasin, pea-nut and covered with pastures, with here and there a sputtering nere and there a sputtering tractor, a group of smart young mountaineers handling hoes or spades, some buffalo-boys holding books in their

"It was opened to meet the needs of socialist revolution in our province," explained dep-uty-headmaster Nguyen Van

for the army at the front, especially during the long Dien Bien Phu campaign.

So the provincial Youth Committee signed with the Public Works Service sev-Public Works Service several contracts to repair roads and enlisted students to do the job while learning. The classes were moved near the work sites. In the end, the fourth batch of students managed to build a new road — the above-men-tioned inter-provincial No 24—and to gather a capital of 320,000 dongs which enabled the school to settle down once for all and engage in farming. With their own hands, teachers and students nands, teachers and students reclaimed land, built class-rooms, clubs, and living quarters, made furniture and school equipment. In brief,

having only three hours for study: two for class and one study: two for learning.

The smooth functioning of the enterprise has had good effects not only on the economic plane, but also on economic plane, but also on the pedagogical one. The teachers, who are producers of material goods like their pupils, have been attaching particular importance to the application of theoretical knowledge, chiefly biology, chemistry, physics and arriknowledge, chiefly bloogy, chemistry, physics and agri-cultural technique. The point is to square theory with practice. Seen from another angle, manual activities combined with the intellectual ones, far from interfering with the latter, con-stitute a healthy change which is complementary

degree and eight for the 3rd degree. In giving the greatest facilities to all, we par-ticularly see to the progress of the weak pupils, who have to be given extra help. Three or four months before the exams, the future candidates are exempted from production work to address themselves to study. The quality of our teaching can be gauged by the percentage of pupils who etween oo and 100.

Over 3,000 youths - beto eight ethnic longing groups - that is nearly one per cent of the Hoa Binh population, have graduated from this Socialist Labour School. Among them 1,750 have got jobs in agricultural

An Original Pedagogic Experience

A School - Cooperative in Hoa Binb

Trong, a 47-year-old Muong and one of the school's founders. But one has to trace back its origins to the

In 1958, the three-year plan of post-war economic restoration had just been fulfilled and agricultural cooperation began. The provincial youth committee, of which Mr Nguyen Van Trong was under-secretary, set was under - secretary, the young mountaineers fo

To build socialism in the delta was already a difficult job, in this mountainous area where various ethnic groups still lived in a prefeadal society, the difficulties seemed insuperable. Here the seemed insuperable, Here the vast majority was still illit-erate. How to advance to socialism without a minimum of general instruction, social technical knowledge The committee then planned to set up a school for youths Unfortunately, there was no money for it since the State was still poor. At last the youth cadres decided to haps the most efficient from the practical point of view. At the same time it has proved the excellence of its organization: each apply a piece of experience from the time of the anti-French resistance. At that time they had run literacy courses for army carriers who were bringing supplies class is also a picture.

brigade, a self-defence section and a Labour Youth cell, while each main teacher is also responsible for all activities of his class study.

they made everything here, from the hen-coops, pigsties, cow-sheds up to the electric station, rice-mill and distil-lery which were eventually built. The tilling, at first manual, has begun to be mechanized with the purchase of three tractors. The transport is no longer done on human backs but on two human backs but on the lorries, a motor-boat, a junk and carts. Now the Hoa Binh school-cooperative has seven million dongs in its coffers, more than twenty times its

"We can supply food,"
Mr Nguyen Van Trong went
on, "and part of clothing to
the pupils and cover all their school expenses. Each year, at the *Tet* traditional festival which is a great occasion val which is a great occasion for mountaineers, we make a school-made present of a kilogram of vermicelli, a bottle of manice alcohol and a litre of fish sauce to their family. The point is to get satisfactory productivity in order to reduce the produ-tion time be it possible to which make it possible to the production of the pro-duction of the pro-ton time of the production of the second the whole evening to and the whole evening to individual study. The first batches did not profit by this arrangement; they by this arrangement; they worked eight hours per day on the construction yards



At the centre of the school



A class in the open air

cooperatives, local offices of life under socialism creates a social environment favourable to the assimilation of new ideas, helps grasp the essence of social sciences, chiefly history and politics, contributing to the ideological uting to the ideological formation in a decisive man-ner. At last, thanks to a organization study, the teachers' patience and dedication, emulation animated by a spirit of mutual aid among the pupils, the latter have to prove their knowledge

As for the standard of the pupils-kolkhozians, exams have proved that it is about the same as that of pupils of any general-education school, even of the best ones, Mr Dinh Hoat, a graduated from the Hanoi Teachers' School, member of the school directorate, com-

"Our pupils are past school-age, have acquired certain experience in produc-tion as well as in social life, and have no time to lose. One can and must make their One can and must make their progress rapidly with an appropriate method. We have reduced our school-term to four months and a half for the 1st degree, six for the 2nd

the Workers' Party and the Labour Youth, and in various educational, sanitary and administrative services 157 have joined the People's Army, 524 have gone up to high schools and secondary vocational schools at home and 10 are doing post-grad-uate study in the Sovie Union, the German Democratic Republic, Rumania, etc. Fncouraged by these substantial successes. directors of the school are contemplating expanding it beyond the framework of secondary school: it will be equipped with a department higher technical study. an embryonic engineers' school where the pupils will also work while they learn. This bold project has been approved by the provincial authorities and the Ministry of Higher Education.

Hoa Binh has blazed the trail for the other mountainous provinces. At present, such schools, of smaller size, which are operating on the same principles and pattern.

VII CAN

VIET NAM COURIER

ROM Hanoi, one follows

PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG SENDS MESSAGE TO PRINCE PHOUMA

Prince Souphanouvong, Chairthe Central Committee the Lao Patriotic Front, sent June 12 the following message on June 12 the ionowing message to Prince Souvanna Phouma, urging him to join efforts with the LPF in the search for a peaceful solution to the Lao problem, Krac reported:

have the honour to acknow ledge receipt of your message dated April o, 1970.

At present, along with its aggression in Cambodia and the ntinuation of its aggressive ir in South Viet Nam, the war in South Viet Nam, the United States has been franti-cally escalating its aggressive war cally escalating its aggressive war in Laos. It has mounted destructive bombings against Lao territory, introduced That and South Viet Nam mercenary units into Laos and thrown troop in its pay in repeated incursion into the areas under the control of the patriotic forces, thus creating an extremely grave situation in Laos.

In disregard of the strong protest of the world peoples and the American people, the Nixon administration is scheming to intensify further its aggression against our country. True Lao batriots cannot remain indifferent patriots cannot remain indifferent to this danger originated against their beloved Fatherland by the US imperialists and their lackeys. I hope that in the supreme interest of the Father-land, Your Highless will join efforts with m; in linding other efforts with us in finding effe efforts with us in finding effec-tive measures for a peaceful cettlement of the Lao issue and stalling in time US new military

I reaffirm that the 5-point statement on March 3, 1970 by the Lao Patriotic Front consti-tutes a sound basis for a solution. the Lao Patriotic Front is ready to meet the other parties con cerned immediately after the complete and unconditional ceisa-Tion of US bombardments ogainst Lao territory.

The Lao Patriotic Front is The Iao Patriotic Front is constantly frompted by good will and a real desire for peace. However, if the US imperialists and their lackeys stubbornly continue their war escalation and expansion in Laos, the Laobatriotic lorges exercising their and expansion in Laus, the Lau patriotic forces, exercising their legitimate right of self-defence, will resolutely meet force with due force to defend their sacred national rights and safeguard the fundamentals of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

Please accept the assurances of

- Watercays State frontiers
- Provincial road
- Railway lines
- Lao patriotic forces' attacks
- Adverse commando units wipe d out
- _ US bases in Thailand

MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS

OPERATION Kou Kiet (Save PERATION Ross Atta (save Honour) having come a cropper, on Feb. 21, 1970 the US aggress sors and their lackeys had to pull out of the Plain of Jars-Xieng Khoang area, a part of the Lao liberated zone since 1961 which they had illegally occupied since Aug. 1969. However, they continued stepping up their "special war" in Laos.

Between March and May 1970, they Between March and May 1970, they committed 6 more battalions of Thai troops to the Sam Thong Long Cheng and Savannakhet sectors to beef up the Vang Pan "special forces," conduct commando and spy activities in the liberated zone and join the rightist forces in raids on a number of localities in areas still under their control.

ties in areas still under their control.

On March 21, 1970, AP said reliable
sources in Vientiane disclosed that
Thai troops were directly involved in
the defence of the Long Cheng base.
I/Pl on March 22 put it more bluntly,
"Many reinforcement units were dispatched to Long Cheng, including an
artillery platoon and other Thai soldiers
who had served with the Thai Black
Panther Division in South Viet Nam."
South Victnamese pompot troops

Panther Division in South Viet Nam."
South Victnamese puppet troops
were also deployed in commando and
espionage actions in Laos. On May 18,
1970. Tran Van Lam, Foreign Minister of the State Dipkarta (Indonesia)
that the ARVN (Army of the Republic
of Viet Nam) had pushed up their
activities in Laos since the US Cambodian operation. On the Same day
US Defense Scale when he declared
that "South Viet Nam forces had also
that "South Viet Nam forces had also that "South Viet Nam forces had also entered Laos." In co-ordination with the Lao rightist troops and under US command, these forces undertook many unsuccessful incursions late in May into the liberated areas in Central Laos.

As far as the US is concerned, there ere more than 12,000 advisers in Laos. Referring to the presence of American kelerring to the presence of American armymen in Laos, US Senator Alan Cranston said on March 6, "Americans are fighting in Laos. The fact that some

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VIENTIANE

Luang Prabang

Langcheng

Samneua

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CAMBODGE

CHINE

of them don't wear uniforms doesn't change this one bit... The fact is that American combat troops have been fighting in Laos."

fighting in Laos."
On May 17, 1970, US Secretary of State William Rogers made clear that he could not rule out "the possibility that US ground troops will be sent to Laos." The next day, Defense Secretary Laird acknowledged that "US ground troops had crossed the border into Laos" while on duty.

Alongside intensified ground military activities by US-commanded mixed forces of Lao rightist troops plus Thai and South Vietnamese mercenaries, the Americans escalated their air war with Americans escalated their air war with more and more intensive criminal bomb-ing raids on the Lao liberated areas. After March 18 1970 (i.e. after the pro-US coup d'état in Cambodia) US war planes llew a daily average- of 750 sorties over Laos, in some instances up to 1,000 sorties, as against 600 per day at the end of 1969.

Despite tremendous American efforts Despite tremendous American enores to step up the "special war" in Laos to an unprecedented high, no expected results were achieved because of the heroic resistance of the Lao armed

heroic resistance of the Lao aniest forces and people.

Expanding the big military gains scored during the first 4 months (November – February) of the 1959-1970 dry season during which more than 13,000 adverse troops were put out of action (including the campaign for the liberation of the Plain of or the Viberation of the Plain of acres which for the liberation of the Plain of Jars - Xieng Khoang area which exacted a toll of more than 6,000 South Victnamese and Thai mercenaries) in the 3 months from March to May and in the first half of June this year, the Lao armed forces and people increased their pressure on the enemy everywhere and won new substantial successes

In March, the Lao People's Liberation In March, the Las reopies scheduler and Army together with guerillas and regional troops swung into action in all battlefields: they gave a drubbing to the puppet troops and Thai mercenaries sent in to reinforce the Long Cheng base, raided enemy posts in

HANDLA

CHINE

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1g Phine

localities of Sam Neua, Oudomsay, Vientiane and Borikhane provinces, made lightning attacks on the hide-outs of bandits in the Phon Khong Huoi Thong sector (Southeast of Luang Prabang) and struck at the Nong Kapou and Ban Sok positions in Attopeu prov-ince, Lower Laos.

In April and May, Lao revolutionary armed forces in Xieng Khoang kept up their shellings and pressure on the Sam Thong - Long Cheng base, assailed and recovered Phou Sabot and Keo Bone and many nearby positions Sam Sam Ann And Dak Tha areas (Oudomsay province) were also re-taken following violent fighting and 5,000 more inhabitants were liberated. The armed forces and people of Savannakhet put the HQ of the North Charles of t In April and May, Lao revolutionary

Fighting continued in Sam Neua against Fighting continued in Sam Neua against remnant enemy troops. Many enemy inroads jointly conducted by puppet troops and Thai and South Vietnamese mercenaries and directly commanded by IS "advisers" into the liberated areas in Khammuon, Savannakhet, Muong Phine and Eastern Tchepone, were beaten off by Lao patriots.

In late May and early June, the latter in a remarkable operation completely liberated Attopeu city and closed in upon the enemy in the surrounding areas.

With a series of daring rushes, they destroyed or decimated the HQ of Sub-district 2, two battalion CPs and pupper main force Battalion 43, enemy troops, capturing 260, wounding 100, and seizing more than 300 weapons. After liberating Attopeu city, they hit hard at the enemy in the Boloven High Plateaux and around Sarayane city

On the night of June 8 and early June 9, with the assistance of the local peo-ple and co-operation of some mutinous units of the Vientiane army, they mounted a successful coup on Saravane city. They scored direct hits at the HQ of the Saravane sub-district and the of the puppet main force Battalion BV 41, which caught the enemy off guard.

The colonel chief-commander and the deputy-commander of the Saravane sub district were killed Battalion BV 41 mauled and eventually dis banded, and many of its men surrenderbanded, and many of its men surrenderetd. After 3 hours fighting, the revolu-tionary armed forces completely liberatetd and the surrender of the surrender the city, including Ban Kok May whose fall was described by AFP on June 17 as "the heaviest defeat of the government (i.e. the puppet Vientiane admin-istration) since the loss of Saravane on June o.

Reviewing the situation of the last 7 months of the dry season (Nov. 1969-May 1970) the Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army said in a recent communique:

"The patriotic forces and people put out of action over 6,000 enemy troops, mostly Vang Pao's 'Special Forces,' the shock force of US 'special war in Laos. In terms of units, nearly to adverse Laos. In terms of units, nearly to adverse battalions were wiped out and another to battalions heavily depleted. All blandit pockets of resistance in the liberated zone and many commando spy groups were wiped out. The patriots seized 2.850 weapons of various kinds including 30 cannons blasted out of commisson, over 200 military vehicles and a large amount of war supplies, and shot down or destroyed on the ground 287 enemy aircraft. Over 20,000 people re freed from enemy grip.

With their successes in the dry season the Lao people and armed forces have foiled the new US war formula, namely "native troops + US advisers and fire-power," which is an application of the Nixon doctrine in the military field. Following many days and nights of valiant fighting, on Feb. 22, 1970 the Lao People's Liberation Army completely liberated the Plain of Jars Xieng Khoang area, a part of the Lao liberations since 1961 illegally seized by the US and its lackeys in Aug. zone since 1961; illegally seized by the US and 118 lacency: in Augi-1969. Following is a story sent from the war zone by a Viethamnese correspondent giving some glimpses of the initial battle in this campaign - the battle for Phou Nok Kok, a foreneard position, a well-pritified gate in the Plain of Jars which leads to the Ban Ban and Sam Newa tear baxes-Ed.

WITH the assistance of Lao friends, I made a trip to Discounting I made a trip to Phou Nok Kok. It is a high mountain rises abruptly above the impresthat rises abruptly above the impressive Co Luong range, blocking Koute to the South and fanning out to the North where it links up with Mounts Muong Kha and Phu Mu Lao into a rugged barrier dozens of kilometres long swinging around Nong Pet road function. Pet road junction.

Route 7 is flanked by Phou Nok Kok to become a one-way corridor running into the Plain of Jars. For this reason, people liken Phou Nok

aircraft right on the base area in casof an enemy charge. Along the trenches there were blockhouses with sleeping bays cut deep into the mountain. The carth cover, more than three feet thick, could sustain the destructive blast of a 120-mm projectile. The "turban"

was branched by up to 50 annexes which jutted out through 3 or 4 rows of barbed-wire fences or "antlers" barricades (erected with felled trees). Lao patriotic fighters told me that each of these annexed trenches was a secret guard-post. Here and seen with their flash



In co-ordinated actions with the Liberation People's Armed Forces, the guerillas of Ban Khai, Xieng Khoang province, in the last dry season brought down one F-4 and wiped out thirty Vang Pao handits

PHOU NOK KOK Liberated

Kok to a strongly fortified gate in the Plain of Jars which gives access to the Ban Ban and Sam Neua rear bases. Maybe for its imposing shape and its strategic position, it has been given such a name. Phou Nok Kok is the Lautian for First Hatched is the Laotian Bird Mountain!

I had the opportunity to peep out through the loop-holes in the enemy post which straddled First - Hatched Bird. From here, fire-power can cover all sides, with a range of a dozen all sides, with a range of a dozen kilometres long or more on each side, from the Noong Pet road junction to the Ban Ban arca, and along Route 7 to an intersection of Route 6 leading to Sam Neua, Hurled down from high above, even a light bar-rage of fire is enough to check all upcoming assailants.

I walked on the back of this First Hatched Bird covered with wounds-Here the rock and earth had been pul-verized. Bombs and shells had denuded verized. Bombs and shells had denuded and frightfully churned up the site. When night fell, First-Hatched Bird blooked like a low boat drifting on a sea of log, occasionally rocked by the plosions of mines still described thickly in its body of the boat the lower of the blooked by the blook extremely hot, recking with smoke and the stench of unburied corpses of bandits. It had been the scene of 7 deadly patties between the Lao patriotic forces and the most aggressive Meo bandits from Battalions AC11, AC6A and AC14B plus the Special Battalion SGUI. deadly battles between the Lao patriotic

and ACTI.

Since these Meo bandits were hurled into Phou Nok Kok, US aircraft had ited to Phou Nok Kok, US aircraft had ited and the property of the property

As for the bandits, including Thai As for the bandits, including Thai military personnel wearing Lao uniforms who joined their command, they were under tight control and driven into a position with the position of the property that built here a rather sophisticated defence swatem. There was a they had built here a rather sophisticated defence system. There was aurban-like network of combat trenches covering the whole mountain top. The trenches were supplied with enough lids to protect the troops against steel-pellet bombs to be dropped by US

lights regularly and intermittently on and off. Beware! They were merely straw bandits. The bandits in flesh and blood were keeping watch nearby.

In the post, Meo commanders, very cruel and cunning, spent their night smoking opium while straining their cars to catch any unusual sounds outside. By putting their cars against the wall of a trench, they could tell sounds of horse hoofs from a man's footsteps or a night prowling wild beast's. They were considered by the Americans to be more reliable sound detectors than any of the most modern US-made elec tronic devices.

I strode along the combat trench and I strode along the compar trench and stopped at every firing pit, or rather grenade dump. Heaps of grenades, cases of grenades littered the trench bed. Grenades were hung on the wire close to the trench walls. Grenades with their to the trench walls. Grenades with their pins removed were put into pipes of bamboo. Lao fighters told me that when the post defenders felt some-thing was up, they swung these pipes forward which released 5 or 7 grenades at a time. 'We call them 'chain gre-nades,'" they said.

I also had a close look at several den boards, each fitted with dozens of push-buttons, installed in front of the firing pits. They looked quite the firing piss. They look quarter rudimentary but were very dangerous. When a bandit wanted to strike at any cave on the mountain slope, he only needed to press the button and automatically a B.90 projectile from a tree would crash down, or a Claymore mine hidden in the cave would go off. There hidden in the cave would go oil. There were also thousands of automatic mines and trip flares planted in the hedges, in caves, on rises in the ground, at the foot of trees, etc. Steel-pellet bombs, each with 8 leaf green-coloured thread-like trigger strings, were found scattered over the mountain slopes to bar the advance of the attacking forces.

When Phou Nok Kok was still under When Phon NOK ROK was still under enemy occupation, the local inhabitants, especially those of Meo stock, made point of keeping abreast of the mili-tary situation. They anxiously looked forward to a change. They listened to the radio every hour on every wave length for information on the activities. the radio every nour on the activities of the patriotic forces. They waited for the day when these would liberate Phou Nok Kok and march on the Plain of Jars just as they do in a gloomy long night for the first rays of dawn.

was glad to be among the friendly cadwas gasa to be among the friendly cad-res gathering around a map of North-ern Laos to listen to a stimulating talk on the military developments. The field commander, with a pointer in his

hand, gave an account of the Phou Nok Kok battle.

When the enemy illegally seized the When the enemy litegary served the Plain of Jars, he took advantage of the monsoon rains to helilift troops into many positions for sweeps on the sur-rounding areas. However, the raiders were caught in a maze woven by the Liberation troops, militiamen and gue-rillas who relentlessly trounced them, pinned them down, kept their encroach-ments in check and made it impossible for them to beat an early retreat.

Everybody was aware that the enemy should be swept out of the area and the Plain of Jars re-taken at all costs. the Plain of Jars re-taken at all costs.
And so, in torrential rains and under
US bombing, valiant Lao fighters took
pride in sharing weal and woe and
saving every round of ammunition. I
gathered that our Lao friends looked saving every round of ammunition. I gathered that our Lao friends looked forward to going to battle for the destruction of the enemy just as the farmers looked forward to harvest time. They wept tears of joy, counting the explosions and the series of battles which thrashed the enemy day and night on whatever terrain, rain or shine throughout the last 4-5 months, while moving towards the day when the whole front went into action and drive Vang Pao's troops, Thai mercenaries nd their American bosses out of their

beloved Plain of Jars. The need for the liberation of the Plain of Jars was more pressing than the craving for drinking water in the thick of this boiling hot dry season on this important High Plateau. The local people went out of their way to meet the lighters and offer them corns on the cob and papers of tobacco. From various units and localities, letters flowed to the Field Command promising

And this eager wish had come true the unit committed to Phou Nok

FOR 4 days and nights in a row, like a tiger hot on the heels of its prey, Lao patriotic fighters, under the rain of enemy fire, hung on to the Phou Lao patriotic fighters, under the rain of enemy fire, hung on to the Phou Nok Kok base perimeter, waiting for the moment to charge its defenders. Fires were blazing all around them. There seemed to be a lump in everybody's throat. Often enough they had to share drops of water and bits of good, Vet their eyes were beaming with confidence in without. onfidence in victory.

In the dark night, company leader Thao Vot crept from one combat posi-tion to another, pin-pointing the targets to every gunner and the direction of the assault to every fighting man. He noticed that his men's faces looked

dirty and haggard and that their clothes were caked with dirt. Nevertheless, everybody remained alert and cheerful waiting for the go-signal. The fighters whispered some heartfelt words into their commander's car.

"Things are as sure as fate,

The company leader was very pleased to see that his men, all without exception, were eager to make sure of victory. One man got seriously wounded in the arm, but refused to leave the perimeter. He insisted on joining the battle for Phou Nok Kok.

As soon as the signal shot went up, As soon as the signal shot well up, tearing the darkness with its glare, the attackers suddenly emerged from the ground. They burst across the fences and swiftly gained the combat rences and swiftly gained the combat trenches. As they rushed along the trenches, the lines of the enemy resist-ance broke. Thao Vot got wounded but stayed on to direct the fight. He but stayed on to direct the light. He was hit for the second time and only when his superior ordered him to leave the fire line for a bandage, did he agree to hand over the command to Kham Dich, who was heading the main thrust of the battle.

Soon enemy guns from Hill A fell silent. From Hill B, guns kept spitting orange flames into the night. The surviving enemy troops fell back to this spot and offered tough resistance.

this spot and oriered tough resistance. Fighting raged on until dawn. Members of Unit X were still unable to inch forward. A deadly hall of fragments of iron from bombs and shells cut the lane between A and B positions only several hundred metres apart. Kham Dich reminded his men apart. Kham Dich reminded his her to live up to their pledge that they would hold the ground to the last man. Following a succession of bomb and shell explosions, which left a smoke screen that dimmed out the glare of flares, the bandits, like wild boars, wriggled forward, their guns spitting flashes of fire. For some time, the out Hasnes of lire. For some time, the tactics were roughly the same. Acting upon Kham Dich's orders, the patriots waited until the bandits came in close, then simultaneously cut them down with "steel guavas" seized from the enemy. The blasts sent the bandits, with "steel guavas" seized from the canemy. The blasts sent the bandits, some up in the air, others somerasulting, Hoarse cries of fright rose in the night. The survivors pulled back. In the third drive, Lao patriots, exploiting their break-through, "hung on the enemy belts" and directed their the third drive, Lao patriots, exploiting their break-through, "hung on to the enemy belts" and directed their thrust against B position. Anti-tank guns started barking, Green flames flashed out, thumping and crashing against the three properties of the properties of the properties of the properties. on the enemy lines.

Suddenly from Hill A, a string of explosions was heard. A detachment of bandits was re-deployed by their crafty manders trying to take the patriotic

commanders trying to take the particular forces in rear.

But a 6-man team led by Bun Cong which held Hill A successively pushed them back. In the 4th drive, Bun Cong shouted "Ta-lum-bon!" (Charge!) Many bandits died in individual combat, bayoneted for the most part. Now there

(Continued page 7)

DRVN PRESIDENT GREETS FRESH SOVIET SPACE EXPLOIT

President Ton Duc Thang sent on June 23 the following message of congratulations to N.V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR:

ON the occasion of the completion of the longest orbital flight ever known and the safe landing of the Soyuz 9 spaceship manned by Colonel A. Nikolayev and Engineer V. Sevastianov, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Vietnamese people, the

Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and in my own name, my heartiest congratulations to you and the people and Government of the Soviet Union.

Please convey my cordial greetings to astronauts A. Nikolayev and V. Sevastianov, and to all the Soviet scientists, engineers and workers who have contributed to this great achievement

SUPPORT TO JAPANESE PEOPLE'S DRIVE FOR CANCELLATION OF "JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY"

various Asian countries to

persuade the parties directly

Fighting against the same

enemy - aggressive US im-

perialism and Japanese

monopoly capital - the Vict-

namese people fully support

the struggle of the Japanese

Communist Party, peace,

democratic and progressive

organizations and people to

check the hands of the US

imperialists and the Sato

reactionary authorities, de-

mand the immediate abolition

chinese peoples

istration

(Excerpts from the Nhan Dan editorial of June 23, 1970)

THE drive to have the, Japan - US : Security Treaty scrapped is on of important significance waged by the Japanese people for peace, independence and neutrality of Japan and for security in Asia and the world.

In the past ten years, relying on US imperialism and actively serving its aggressive plans, while trying to take advantage of its difficulties to lessen Japan's dependence on the US, the Japanese monopoly capital has striven to increase its economic potential and improve its position in the Japan US Alliance, and speeded up its economic and political expansion in Asia.

Sato government in the The Nixon-Sato extension recent Djakarta Conference of the term of the Japanas well as its allowing the US Security Treaty (signed continued US use of Okinawa in late 1900) represented a dangerous development of Indochina spelled out the the Japan-US military alliincreasing complicity of the ance which fits into the Japanese monopoly capital new, aggressive global stratin the "Victnamization' egy of the US imperialists plan of the Nixon adminisand the expansionist ambitration which in fact is tions of the Japanese monopintended to continue the oly capital in the 1970's. aggressive war, prolong US One of the key points in this military occupation, mainnew move consists in making tain the puppet administrabetter use of Japan's potentions in Saigon, Phnom Penh tial, turning Japan into a and Vientiane and impose shock force for neo-coloneo-colonialism on the Innialism, first of all, to help dochinese peoples.

TO THE PEADER

We are aware that there We are aware that there
is much room for improvement in the wording
of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help to serve you more efficiently in fu-

of the Japan-US Security the US cope with the victorithe immediate ous resistance of the Indoand unconditional return of Okinawa to Japan, the removal of all US troops Everybody knows Japan's active rule in the "Vietnamfrom Japan and the dismantle ization " and " Indochinaing of US military bases sation" of the US war of there. They firmly believe aguression on this peninsula. their glorious that with As early as November 1969, tradition of struggle against Japan Radio announced that the reactionaries at home Sato supported the present and US imperialism, the efforts of President Nixon Japanese people will certoward a solution to the Vict tainly win ever bigger suc-Nam problem, would visit

meeting in support of concerned, and was ready to A the Japanese people's take part in an internadrive for the abolition tional control commission in of the Japan-US Secur-Viet Nam and increase aid Treaty was held to the Saigon puppet adminon June 23 in Hanoi under the auspices of the Viet The unsavoury part of the Nam-Japan Friendship Association, the Vietnamese Committee for the Defence of World Peace and the Vietnamese Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian the war of aggression in Peobles. On June 20 the Viet Nam - Japan Friendship Association invited Lawyer Pham Thank Vinh, a member of the Vietnamese Lawyers' Delegation recently back from a visit to Japan, to give a talk to a large audience on the Japanese people's struggle against the Sato and US governments.

Messages condemning the USA and the Sato govern-ment and supporting the Japanese's legitimate moveme for the return of Okinawa
to Japan have been sent by the Viet Nam Youth Union, the Viet Nam Women's Union and the Vietnamese Students' Union to their Japanese counterparts. The Vietnamese Lawyers' Association has also made public a declaration of sup-

PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG SENDS CONDOLENCES TO Mrs HARTINI SUKARNO

President Ton Duc Thang of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has sent the following message of sympathy to Mrs Hartini Sukarno over the demise of former Indonesian President Sukarno:

am deeply shocked and grieved to learn of the passing away of Bung Karno.

From the bottom of our hearts, we Vietnamese From the bottom of our hearts, we Victnamies mourn for Bung Karno, a close friend who strongly supported the Victnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national saluation from the very outset and who contributed to the building of the militant friendship between the Indonsian and Victnamian and Victnamian

namese peoples.

The Asian and African peoples and the progressive people in the world with always remember Bung Karno, the Indonesian people's patriolic fighter who carried aloft the Bandung banner of the Afro-Asian solidarity

against imperialism and colonialism.

In these Rours of boundless mourning, I request you and your family to accept my heartfelt condolences

News from CAMBODIA

Nearly 1,500 Enemy Troops Wiped Out

DURING the attacks upon the enemy in the first ten days of June in Kompong Cham, Kandal, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu provinces, the National Liberation Armod Forces of Chambodia exacted a toll of nearly 1,500 adverse troops including some 550 GIs and Sigonese mercenaries, wereked 70 septembers, downed 7 aircraft and captured hundreds of weapons, the Information Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea (FUNK) reported.

Details have been given by the FUNK Bureau as follows: Details have been given by the FUNK Bureau as follows: In Kompone Cham, Cambodian patriots on June 7 knocked out 120 Gls, grounded 4 choppers and destroyed an ordinance piece and an arsenal in Phum Da area. On the same day US convoy fell into an ambush laid by guerillas and regional forces on Highway No 22. Many Gls were killed or injured and 12 vehicles including 7 armoured cars, damaged. The patriotic forces also sank two war vessels in south of Tongle Bet.

On June 9 they mounted two surprise attacks on US troops On June 9 they mounted two surprise attacks on OS troops stationed north and north-east of Memot; 300 GIs and 35 vehicles were put out of action, a company of US infantry written off and a US motorized company decimated.

In Kandal, on June 4 the patriots rushed a military training-centre at Satbo, 23 kilometres south of Phnom Penh. inflicted 100 casualties and seized 100 fire-arms and three

on lune 9 the regional forces wiped out about thirty enemy and captured two others, 18 kilometres north-east

ranom renn.

In Siem Reap from June 5 to 7 the patriots caused heavy losses to two battalions of the Phnom Penh army in Siem Reap city and its vicinities. Hundreds of soldiers were disabled and military traffic on Highway No. 6 was cut off.

In Rompose Thom, from June 6 to 0, striking at various barracks and intercepting reinforcement troops, the resistance forces knocked out one battalion and mowed down three others. The Jath Battalion of the Phnom Penh army lost over

On the night of June 11, the patriotic forces assailed the On the night of June 11, the patriotic forces assailed the Kompong Speu provincial capital, put out of action more than 300 troops, 25 military vehicles, including 5 armoured cars and brought down 3 planes; they also set free over 150 Khmer civillams held by the Lon Nol clique.

Tanzania Recognizes Cambodia's National Union Government

HE spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the THE spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania declared on June 19 that his government and decided to recognize the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodis, Dar es Salaam sources said. As is almy known, President Nyercre of Tanzania hid welcomet the KoNUC Delegation to the recent Preparatory Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Dar es Salaam and denied admission to the so-called "delegation" of the Lon Nol. Strik Matak clique.

A Cambodian Delegation Visits New Delhi

delegation of the Royal Government of National Union delegation of the Koyai towernment of National Union of Cambodia composed of Mr. Sarin Chlak, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Chan Youran, Minister of Education and Youth, paid a friendly received by Mine Indira Gandhi, Prima Minister of India, and Mr. D. Singh, Indira Gandhi, Prima Minister of India, and Mr. D. Singh, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Premier Indira Gandhi expressed the Indian people's sympathy with and respect for, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the legitimate resistance of his heroic people.

VIET NAM COURIER

South Viet Nam

MILITARY OPERATIONS

- I battalion and I company of puppet troops wiped out, another battalion and three companies hadly mauled in Ca Mau province (nights of June 7 and o and morning of June 10).
- I company knocked out and I battalion severely depleted in western My Tho province (night of June
- 50 enemy positions attacked, more than 400 puppet casualties in Soc Trang province (from May

SAIGON FRONT :

One puppet battalion CP and two companies of the same battalion entirely wiped out, the 3rd company battered north-east of Thu Dau Mot province (at two o'clock on June 9); I company and I section mown down near Ba Ria, district capital of Xuan Loc province (June 11).

CENTRE AND NORTH OF TRUNG BO:

A battalion of cadets and a military convoy of 13 vehicles put out of action in Binh Dinh province (night of June 3, June 10); numerous positions in the Cam Ranh peninsula assaulted, 40,000 tons of war materials destroyed and one hundred enemy troops knocked out (June 8, 9 and 11); adverse positions in Phu Loc district capital and surroundings, Thua Thien province, assailed. I US artillery company written off and one hundred puppet troops put out of action(night of June 10).

Phou Nok Kok Liberated

(Continued from page 5)

was only sporadic firing and soon all enemy

With the coming of dawn, enemy corpses were also corpses of Meo girls, with curied hair and in see-through dresses, who had forcibly sent in to help "shore up the morale" of the bandits. The mountain was covered with pieces of mangled blue and red parachutes. Plane debris lay scattered on the slopes of Phou Nok Rok and Co Luong...

Meanwhile at Noong Pet, the bandits, demoralised and in complete disarray, started on a hunt for leadless to the control of th r move out to get water, alraid of guernia ping. They hired others to do the job, at e rate of 300 kips a pair of buckets. Delect-and prisoners of war disclosed that the ors and prisoners of war disclosed that the bandits were asking their Chief Vang Pao and the Americans to air drop an additional 100 tons of barbed-wire and 10,000 sandbags

objectives of the combat mission of the patriotic armed forces.

"Various columns of our forces," he said, "various columns of our forces," he said, "are switching over to a new wave of light-ning offensive to win decisive battles on this strategic High Plateau. Units operating behind the enemy lines have closely co-ordinated with those engaged in frontal attacks, while the militia and guerillas kept up their harassing activities, forcing the enemy to spread thin his forces for the Liberation army to wipe them out. Our commanders and combatants them out. Our commanders and combatants are bringing into play the traditions of those units which have performed resounding feats in the Plain of Nas Khang, Pathi, Muong Sand Carlon, Nas Khang, Pathi, Muong Pao's 'Special Forces' just as they had inflieted crushing reverses on the rightist forces and the reactionary neutralist forces and the reactionary neutralist forces in the past."

Lao cadres were all ears as their (O) was speaking, riveting their eyes on the map dotted with blue and red pin-points. I was dotted with blue and red pm-pome-under the impression that everybody was see-ing in his mind's eyes sappers cheerfully greeting columns of crack infantrymen and Plain of lars, beating the enemy in the Plain of Jars, beating the enemy in the air, cutting his retreat on the ground. Meanwhile in that part of this flat and sprawling high plateau painted in green, infantrymen, guerillas and tankmen of the Lao patriotic forces are closely co-ordinating their actions and fast moving into position for a direct thrust into the last redoubt of the US-Vang Pao on this historic plain.

72nd Plenary Session of Paris Conference

on Viet Nam (June 25, 1070)

CONFERENCE CONTINUES DRAGGING ITS FEET

IKE in previous sessions the US and puppet delegates rang the changes on the mutual withdrawal" of troops and pleaded for the expansion of their aggressive war to the whole of Indochina. The representatives of the DRVN and the RSVN demonstrated with irrefutable evidence US responsibility for the worsening of the situation in this part of the world. For all its desperate attempts, they said, US policy is fated to failure and diplomatic moves of the type of the Djakarta Conference are unable to ward off US political and military setbacks,

A FUNDAMENTAL POLICY REPRESSION

(Continued from page 2)

of "denunciation of Communists, the word "communist" being un-derstood in its widest sense.

After the law 10/59 was decreed, After the law 10/39 was decreed, go Dinh Diem made known his "Policy toward former resistance members." According to this crucial policy statement, were considered "Viet Cong saboteurs" all the effective and active chiefs, commanders and leaders of Viet Cong organizations prior to the 1954 Geneva Agreements. Also termed "Viet Cong oteurs" all the members of ille saboteurs all the members of ille-gal organizations secretly left behind in the South or set up after the signing of the Geneva Agreements. Also on the black list were the Peace Also on the black list were the Peace Movement and the Fatherland Front. The term "Viet Cong" was thus extended to all the patriots of the extended to all the patriots of the 1945-54 resistance as well as to the partisans of peace and national reunification. In fact, these made up the Norm population. That is why the campaign triggered mass slaughters of medieval reuelty: Hong Dien in Quang Tri province (July 8-20, 1955); Cho Duoc in Quang Nam province (November 28, 1955), etc.

"Monumej" were conducted on

"Mop-ups" were conducted on an ever larger scale by the regular army. The Saigon administration boastfully publicized these as mil-itary successes. It gave the following sheet listed as "Achiev ments in five years' activities of the Government' published in Saigon in November 1959: Operation Dinh in November 1959: Operation Dinn Tien Hoang (June-December 1955): 600 dead, 193 wounded, 378 arrested; Operation Thoai Ngoc Hau (June-October 1956): 441 dead, 2,117

Along with these bloody opera-tions, the Saigon administration effected the transfer of civilians into effected the transfer of civilians into concentration camps baptized "agri-cultural settlements." There it gathered all those whom it declared "suspects." Official documents recorded 189,545 people penned up in such "settlements" on the High Plateaux, of whom 13,4616 were transferred from the Mekong Delta. when these camps became over-crowded, Ngo Dinh Diem on July 7, 1959 decided to create right in the plains "prosperity zones" the plains "prosperity zones where he impounded people.

For their own survival, the rural population built their self-defence groups, then rose up en masse. The puppet power was seriously shaken. Washington had to come to the rescue and initiated the "special against the South Vietnamese.

2. From 1960 to the Present Time

The Saigon mercenary army, greatly beefed up, was placed under active command of US officers. A US operational command, the MAC, was installed in Saigon while American combat units made their appearance beside Diemist troops during "mopping-up" operations. Weapons of all kinds together with Weapons of all kinds together with ammunition, amphibious trucks and war vessels and especially aircraft were openly sent to South Viet Nam. The entire rural population comprising about 10 million farmers comprising about 10 million farmers was to be forcibly resettled in 16,000 concentration camps and "strategic hamlets" which were later renamed new-life hamlets.

Terrorist raids were mounted in all parts of the country. From 700 in 1961, their number rose to 20,000 in 1962 then to 10,470 in only the first quarter of 1963.

To deny food supplies to the population and thereby weaken their resistance, as early as 1961 chemical poisons labelled "defoliants" or herbicides" were sprayed on the South Viet Nam countryside by US aircraft. Whole areas exposed to chemicals have become completely barren. The animal life was also seriously affected. It has also been established that these "defoliants" have also caused malformed babies.

However, the "special war, atrocious as it was, has not yielded the desired results. In 1965, Amerian troops began to move in mas-sively and the war was escalated to an unprecedented savagery.

After the first drive of the general offensives and uprisings of the armed forces and population of South Viet Nam, the American bosses and their lackeys began a program of "accelerated pacifica-tion"—Operation "Phuong Hoang" (Phoenix)—in a bid to re-establish the pupper rule in the countryside.

With this end in view, they carried out bombardments with aircraft including B-52s, ground artillery and the batteries of the 7th Fleet and the batteries of the 7th Fleet, against even areas adjacent to Saigon. Sweeps have been launched one after the other to devastate crops, after the other to devastate ctops, raze dwellings, terrorize the popu-lation and force them into concen-tration camps newly rebaptized "refugees' camps."

The "Vietnamization" program worked out by Nixon calls for the

reinforcement of the puppet army and consolidation of the neo-coloand consolidation of the neo-color milaist regime with a view to pro-longing and, if possible, to winning he war. From Nivon's inauguration to May 1970, 20,000 wasweeps' under undertaken by or larger. In the first ten months of 1960, the US-puppets dropped on South Viet Nam a bomb load almost equivalent to that cleased on Europe during the whole of Wo lil War II (1930 tons), B-32 exists lawer exached an all-time high compared with 1,544,000 tons). B-52 raids have reached an all-time high (2,600,000 bombs in 1969).

THE past sixteen years during which Washington has been trying to impose US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam have been sixteen bloody war.

By the most modern means and By the most modern means and methods drawn from the arsenal of fascism and colonialism, it thought to be able to cow the Victnamese people. But it has miscalculated: American barbarity has roused not only the peasantry and the working masses in the towns but also the intellectuals and religious believers. Our people are resolved to fight, head erect, to a finish. By their own nead erect, to a minsh. By their own experience, our people make it a point to call out to all other peoples in the world: "Beware! US neo-colonialism is out to commit every

Social, Cultural and

Ideological Poisons

From Inflation to Recession

(Continued from page 1)

What are the causes of this state of things?

Everybody knows that inflation caults above all from a huge budget defect. In his State of the Union his state of the Union his state of the Union caknowledged that in the past descele, the budget defects totalled 57 billion dollars, figure again given in his June 17 televised speech. To make good this deficit, he said, "the American consumer was forced to pay the piper in terms of a ring spiral of prices."

But why such a deficit? It has its root in the escalation of the war of aggression in Viet Nam and in the parallel escalation of military spending.

From 49.6 billion dollars for the 1965 fiscal year, direct military expenditures went up to \$1.3 billion in 1968-69. In the same period the federal budget deficit also increased to the record figure of 25.2 billion increased to the record in the 3 years of the Korean war. Also in the same period, national debt was up by 14 % and the interests for this debt 23 %.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam. which has swallowed up at least 130 billion dollars according to official estimates covering the period up to the end of the 1969 70 fiscal year, is one of the main reasons of the excess of the expenditures over the revenues of the federal budget. Thus from many US economists and businessmen comes the confirmation of the cause - effect link between this war and inflation. For instance, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, President of the US Chamber of Commerce, said in his January 4, 1970 speech that the military spending occasioned the Viet Nam war had led to huge inflation in the country. Moreover, R. Nixon himself, in his June 17 televised address, had to recognize, though in an indirect manner, this gruse-effect relation when he declared that fellowing the gradual and continued withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam, he believed he could limit military outlay, and this, in line with his financial and monetary policy, must in his opinion contribute to curbing inflation (AFP, June 18, 1970).

The huge military budgets are covered, among other things, by government looms and taxes. National debt went up from 320 billion dollars at the end of 1964 to 337.6 billion dollars by the end of October 1969. As for taxes the burden of which weights more and more heavily on the working masses, they have been on a constant 'rise and this, parallel to the price hike.

The tax cut in 1904 has been nullified by taxes for social security and the uninterrupted increase in local and State taxes. In addition, there have been since 1968 a 10 % federal tax surcharge and since January 1969, a new tax boost for social security. The high rates of inflation provided an excuse for Nixon to extend the 10 % tax surcharge until Jan. 1, 1970. Then having been brought down to 3% this tax has been

maintained until the end of the current fiscal year, that is, until June 30, 1970.

The tax surcharge, like any other indiscriminate fiscal measure, hard his bar a disproportionately large share of the burden. Tax for social sccurity, State taxes and local taxes which continue their climb, affect above all low-wage workers. At the beginning of 1970, taxes absorbed on the whole nearly 37 % of the worker's earnings. As for big businesses, they continue to benefit from grants destined to cover depreciation charges and a 7% reduction on reinvested profits, in short, to be given increasing tax evasion facilities, apart from fiscal exemptions. The microscoping the innumerable loop-holes whereby the rich can avoid paying taxes, has provided them with new fiscal advantages.

Tax increase has been conceived, wrongly, by US leaders as an antiinflation measure. As anticipated, it has failed to put a brake on inflation while prices even continue their increase.

Another aspect of the anti-inflation battle: "credit squeeze." With the decline of the buying power resulting from increasingly heavy taxation, private demand cannot progress but by drawing on savings and a large recourse to credit. From 3% of the net income in the first half of 1968, the savings rate fell to 6.6% in the second half of the year, while consumer credit increased in this second half-year twice more rapidly than in the first half-year. Such a development of consumption naturally could not go on indefinitely. Hence the Federal Reserve Bank appears on the scene. A policy of brutal credit squeeze has been applied again. The discount rate has risen gradually to 6% in April 1969. Furthermore, the security margin of bank accounts - in the banks of the bank accounts — in the banks of the Federal Reserve system — has been jacked up by 0.5%, and this consti-tutes an even more radical measure designed to restrict credit. Thanks to these and other similar measures, interest rates have risen rapidly. In June 1969, the interest rate on June 1999, primary commercial borrowing attained 8.5%, that of mortgage loans 9 10% and that of consumer credit 15 20% – figures without precedent. On the whole, the rates of all these types of credit in 1969 in highest in the past 40

The tight-money policy, much vaunted as means to fight against inflation, however imposes no serious restriction as to loans granted to big businesses. The latter in fact, have at their disposal the most varied resources and depends only to a small extent on bank loans.

On the other hand, small proprietors, small farmers and private consumers have more and more difficulties to obtain loans in view of the harsh monetary policy. The lifting of interest rates, under the pretext of combating inflation, results in reality in higher prices of consumer goods, directly because of the rise in the interest rate of consumer credit, and indirectly by the fact that the industrialists see to it that the rise of interest rates is paid by the consumer. Thus, the policy of tight-money and tx-increases have not helped curb inflation, but contribute in no small measure to the price hike.

The anti-inflation measures applied by the US government, namely, tax-increases and restriction on credit, have proved ineffective, since the real cause of inflation — the hypertrophy of military spending — is left more or less intact.

What is more, the policy of the Nixon administration tends less to end inflation radically than to alleviate it.

In fact, inflation brings important advantages to the monopolies. Becaus: what goes up first is the prices of their products, while wages are up only after some time and solely in proportion to the successes obtained by the workers in their struggle. Inflation is a means to

slash in a painless fashion wage increases — painless because it does not touch off a tumultuous resistance from the workers as it would in case wages were directly cut.

Difficulties crop up for the monopolies only when inflation goes beyond a certain limit and consequently gets out of control and entails in particular a dop in US exports which have become less competitive on the world market, an aggravation of the chronic deficit of the balance of payments and a weakening of the dollar as international currency.

In his June 17 televised speech, R. Nixon asserted that inflation would be brought to an end soon. But, as *UPI* put it, except the US President himself, few people believed it (*UPI*, June 17, 1970).

Because not only Nixon has no intention of ending the war of aggression in Viet Nam, he still seeks to extend it to the whole of Indochina. But, as already said, there would be no sensible attenuation of inflation unless an end is put to the war of aggression and military spending considerably reduced.

RECESSION OR "SLOW-DOWN"

WHEREAS the measures taken by Nixon have up to now proved ineffective against inflation, they have exerted an influence, already felt, on economic activities as a whole, and aggravated that of the cyclical factors conducive to recession. (Nixon prefers speaking of a "slow-down").

The rate of increase in the real gross national product (GNP) fell in and the trend continues. From Aug. Sept. 1999, industrial production began going downhill and the movement is on. The activity in the three key industrial sectors—automobile, attended to the continuous of the continuous continuous and the continuous continuous and the continuous continuous and the continuous conti

spending.

Another important fact: the slow but continued increase of the rate of full unemployment which, from Japes to August 1995 to official statistics, and shot up to 4% in Sept. 1969, constitutes a qualitative change showing, among other things, a generalized discontinuation, under the effect of recession, of the habit of keeping manpower surplus within certain limits.

In May, full unemployment already affected 5%, of the total labour force or 4.1 million persons, according to official statistics. According to Prof. Milton Friedman (University of Chicago), unemployment might reach 6% (Wall Street Journal, Feb. 24, 1979).

It is the Black workers, whose unemployment rate has already been proportionally the highest, that suffer most. A survey from the US Labour Department covering he ghetto areas of 100 cities shows that the general level of unemployment there was put at 5.7% during the second quarter of 1900. But this year that of Black workers has climbed from 7.3 to 8% while that of White workers has dropped from 4.6 to 4%.

According to economist Michael Evans, of the University of Pennsylvania, when unemployment hits the mark of 7% in the whole country, it will be 15% among the Afro-Americans in general, and 35% among the Afro-Americans under 25.

Recession, coupled with the continued aggression in Indochina, can also be detected in a stock market slump. Stock prices show a sharp drop of 11% on April 29 last; that was, it is said, a record low since Nov. 1069 when LF. Konnedy was assassimated. On recorded an abrupt fall aguin by the Dow Jones industrial indices, Following Nixon's June 17 televised speech, the New York Stock Exchange again closed on the minus side (AP., June 17, 1070). Democratic Senator Cranston has affirmed senator Cranston has affirmed worst in the US since 1957 (UPI, June 17, 1070).

Inflation, with all its consequences both domestic and foreign, recession and unemployment, all that spells out the rising instability of the US economy. At the root of all these troubles, is, among other factors, the Viet Nam war, now becoming the Indochina war.

Nixon's June 17 speech offered no radical remedy for the ailment suffered by the US economy, chiefly because the US President is bent on pursuing his policy of war and aggression.

V.N.T.